

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

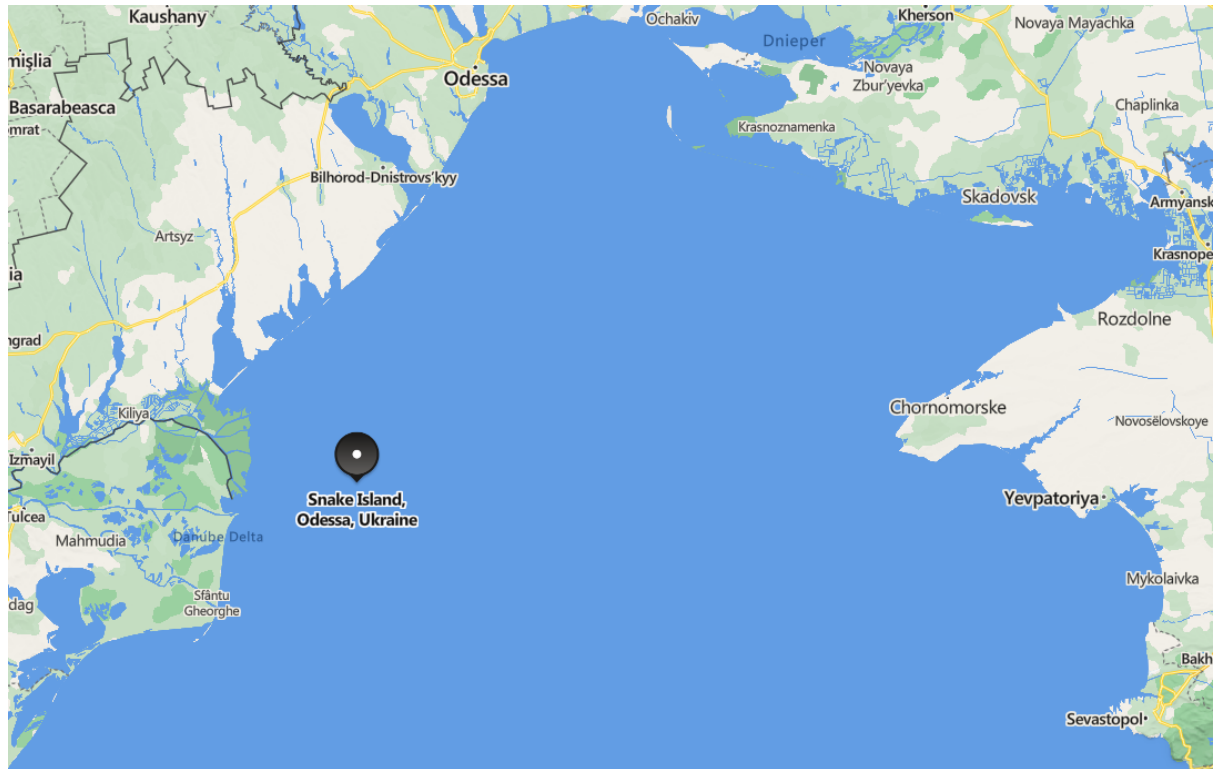
6 June 22 – Queen’s Birthday
10 June 22 – Navy Club
17 June 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA
24 June 22 – Matariki
8 July 22 – Navy Club
15 Jult 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at the Bays Club

Hi Folks

THE CURSE OF SNAKE ISLAND

One of Russia's first moves in its invasion of Ukraine was the capture of Snake Island. Two months later they are desperately struggling to keep it. This is a sign of their weakening dominance over the Northern Black Sea. The biggest impact of the loss of the cruiser Moskva is that the northern Black Sea is a safer place for Ukrainian aircraft. Particularly for the Ukrainian Navy's TB2 drones. This tactical loss could have strategic implications. The focus has become Snake Island, a small rock in the south west corner of Ukraine. It was captured by Russia in the opening hours of the war. Moskva herself played a visible role in the capture. Now, with the failure of Russia to advance west from Crimea, Snake Island finds itself an isolated outpost. It is the only Russian-held territory west of Crimea. And it is increasingly defenceless. Moskva's role was largely air defence, being a floating double-battery of S300 missiles. In the void left by Moskva, Ukrainian drones have been able to operate effectively against Russian targets. This has had dramatic effects. Ukraine's first major move appears to have been to take out the air defences on the island with a drone strike. A potent SA-15 Tor missile system provided local air defences, at least in theory. The removal of that system allowed the Ukrainian Navy's TB2 drones to loiter nearby. The first Russian Navy victims were two Raptor assault boats on May 2. The Pr.03160 Raptor is modelled on the influential Swedish CB-90 design. It has many uses, including insertion and extraction of special forces. But it has only limited air defences and even when manoeuvring hard, has proven an easy target for the TB2. On May 7 Russia attempted to land a replacement SA-15 missile system on the island. A TB2 drone caught the Pr.11770 Serna Class landing craft in the act, hitting it as it was about to unload. The attack was devastating and the shipwreck blocked the landing spot. With the air defences degraded the Russian garrison was subject to successive air strikes by drones and fighter jets. Soon most of the buildings on the island were reduced to rubble. Russia was still operating Raptors in the area but two more were eliminated by a TB2 on May 8. Along with a helicopter landing troops on the island. The island seems unliveable. Russia appears

determined to keep the island, even at a high cost of troops and equipment. It's location is strategic. It can provide surveillance, and it prevents Ukraine from benefiting in the same way.



MORE AUSTRALIAN AID FOR UKRAIN

More than 30 additional armoured vehicles will be delivered to Ukraine as part of a new military support package from the Commonwealth government.

Minister for Defence Peter Dutton has announced 14 M113 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) and a further 20 Thales-built Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles (PMVs) would be gifted to Ukraine in support of its ongoing resistance to Russian aggression.

This builds on the 20 Bushmasters, including two ambulance variants, initially delivered to Ukraine following a request from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, taking the total number of PMVs gifted to the country to 40.



FUTURE RAN SUPPORT SHIP PROPOSED

Engineering firm BMT has proposed a variant of its proprietary multi-role logistics vessel design to fulfil the Royal Australian Navy's requirement for a new fleet support ship. The vessel will have the ability to transport troops, vehicles, and equipment in support of amphibious warfare and littoral operations. Aviation facilities for helicopters and equipment for replenishment at sea will also be incorporated in the design. The vessel will also be designed to operate as a humanitarian disaster response platform with space for accommodating enhanced medical facilities.

Source: Baird Maritime



MERCHANT – MILITARY COOPERATION

The war in Ukraine and the growing antagonism between the Western countries and Russia, create increased focus on the military capabilities of the West, including the ability of the British navy to operate far from its own bases for extended periods of time. Ships require fuel, and warships are often very thirsty. Therefore, refuelling at sea - Replenishment at Sea - is an important link when the requirement is an efficient and flexible deployment of naval forces. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) supplies British warships when operating far from their bases, but capacity is of course limited. To increase capacity and create greater flexibility, RFA is collaborating with its US counterpart, the US Military Sealift Command. As part of this collaboration, the US Military Sealift Command chartered tanker MAERSK Peary, which belongs to Maersk's US subsidiary, has just completed a simulated transfer of fuel to an English warship - HMS *Tidesurge*. No fuel was transferred during the operation, but procedures and physical interconnection of equipment were tested with a positive result, opening up for future joint operations.

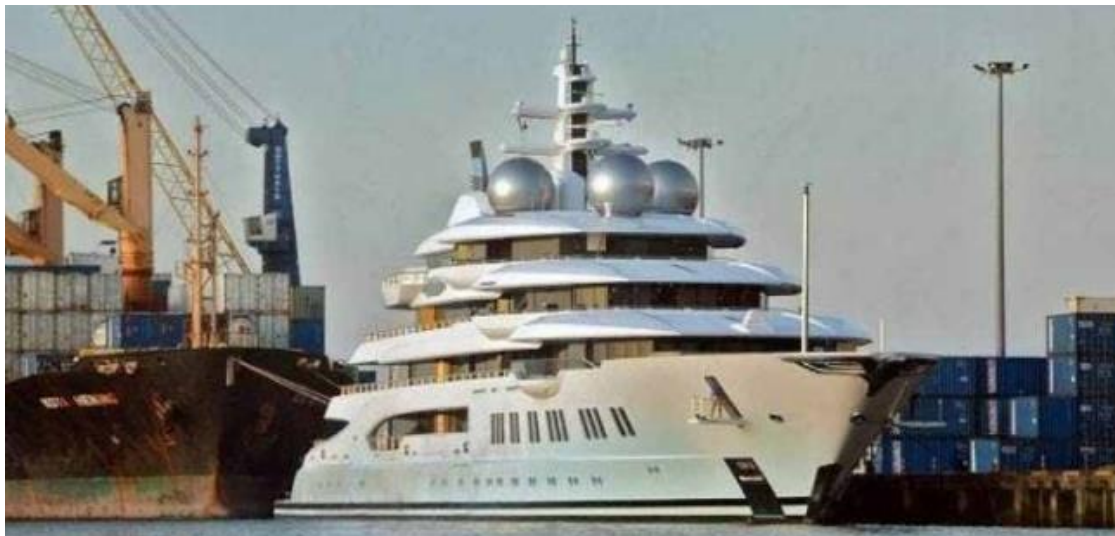
Source: maritimedanmark



US-RUSSIA TUG OF WAR COSTS FIJI

Fiji has become wedged firmly between the United States and Russia over the war in Ukraine, and there seems to be no way out for the Pacific islanders. When a judge granted the US request to seize a superyacht linked to Russian billionaire Suleiman Kerimov two weeks ago, the Fijian government was relieved. But the 106 metre-long, NZ\$467 million AMADEA is still in Fiji and is costing taxpayers there more than F\$1m (NZ\$730,000) a week to maintain, the Office of Fiji's Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) said. The latest drama followed a Court of Appeal ruling last week in favour of the AMADEA legal team's application for a stay order. This meant the vessel could not leave Fiji until its ownership is determined by a court.

Source: Maritime Press Clippings



LARGE COLDSTORE FOR WAIKATO

Construction of the 45,000 square metre cold store in the Ruakura superhub on the outskirts of Hamilton will begin late next year. Once complete it will have more than 16,000 square metres of fully convertible temperature-controlled space with temperatures ranging from -25C to 15C and will be able to store over 21,000 pallets of cold chain products. Maersk Oceania managing director Henrik Jensen said the site is next to State Highway 1 and the Ruakura Inland Port providing a seamless link to the Ports of Tauranga and Auckland. "From dairy and meat to seafood and fruits, the primary industry sector is key to drive the development of New Zealand's economy. "This cold storage facility will cater for both national and international supply chains, and in conjunction with our extensive New Zealand Ocean network connecting the world." We firmly believe it will enable us to be flexible and agile in our operations to ensure that we can match customers' needs with seasonal demand, Jensen said. Maersk has entered an agreement with Tainui Group Holdings for a long-term ground lease to build the facility. Its chief executive Chris Joblin said Maersk's decision to locate its new cold storage facility at Ruakura is a very significant addition to the New Zealand supply chain. "For more than half of all New Zealanders who live in the 'golden triangle' of Waikato, Auckland, and Bay of Plenty, it also boosts the resilience of how critical food supplies are moved around the country and around the globe."

Source: RNZ



CAPT BЛИGH R.N.

Action against the Dutch

11 Oct 1797. HMS *Director* and 20 other ships gather off Texel. On the 11th the Dutch, under Vice-Admiral Jan de Winter, confront the British under Admiral Adam Duncan. The Battle of Camperdown (fought off Camperduin) has begun. Action is joined in the afternoon with *Director* engaging two Dutch ships, one a 56 gun, the other a 64 gun. *Director* is a 64-gun ship. In the event, the British won the day capturing De Winter's flagship the *Vrijheid* (74 guns) and ten others. It is HMS *Director* under Bligh that engages and defeats the Dutch flagship. His ship suffers seven wounded only.

17 Oct. HMS *Director* returns to England.

Dec 1797. Bligh is called as a witness to the court martial of John Williamson. Williamson was the Captain of HMS *Agincourt* (64 guns) at Camperdown. The charges are related to the battle of Camperdown where it is alleged, he held his ship away from the engagement. He is found guilty of cowardice. Readers may remember John Williamson from **Newsletter 1**. It is the same man who was in charge of the launch at Hawaii when Cook was killed, and whom some, including Bligh believe did not do sufficient to aid Cook when he was attacked. In any case, the outcome of the court martial was to effectively end Williamson's career.

Aug 3 1798. Nelson is victorious in the Battle of the Nile, a battle between the British and French navies fought at Aboukir Bay off the Nile Delta Egypt.

Throughout the remainder of 1797 and until 1799, Bligh in HMS *Director*, continues the patrols of the English Channel. A brief respite came at the end of 1799 when he was sent to St Helena to uplift a number of plants destined to be planted at Kew Gardens, London (London's famous botanical gardens).

1800. It is probable that *Director* entered refit as Bligh was employed on a number of projects by the Admiralty including surveying of the harbour at Dublin, Ireland. But soon Bligh was to give up his command of HMS *Director* for another posting to sea.

(to be continued)



Death of Captain Cook, Hawaii, 1779